

## What is Claimed:

- 1                   1.       An absorbent article comprising:  
2                   a barrier layer;  
3                   a cover layer extending substantially parallel to said barrier layer; and  
4                   a superabsorbent polymer interposed between said cover layer and said  
5 barrier layer, said superabsorbent polymer being adhered to said article in a pattern  
6 configured to distribute fluid in said absorbent article, wherein at least one portion of  
7 said absorbent article extending essentially completely across said absorbent article is  
8 substantially devoid of said superabsorbent polymer.
- 1                   2.       The absorbent article of claim 1 further comprising a core  
2 interposed between said cover layer and said barrier layer, wherein said  
3 superabsorbent polymer is applied to said core or said barrier layer in said pattern.
- 1                   3.       The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said pattern is configured  
2 to increase resistance of said absorbent article to tearing, said at least one portion of  
3 said absorbent article extending essentially completely across said absorbent article  
4 being more resistant to tearing than at least one other portion of said absorbent article.
- 1                   4.       The absorbent article of claim 1 further comprising a core  
2 interposed between said cover layer and said barrier layer, wherein said core comprises  
3 at least one of cellulose and cellulose acetate.
- 1                   5.       The absorbent article of claim 4 wherein said core is selected from  
2 the group consisting of tissue, air laid composite, and paper towel sheet.
- 1                   6.       The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said barrier layer  
2 comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene,  
3 copolymers of polyethylene and polypropylene, polyester, and bi-component fibers.
- 1                   7.       The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said cover layer  
2 comprises one or both of a non-woven material and an apertured film.
- 1                   8.       The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said pattern forms at  
2 least one region including said superabsorbent polymer and at least one continuous  
3 zone that is substantially devoid of said superabsorbent polymer, said continuous zone  
4 having greater tear resistance than said region including said superabsorbent polymer.
- 1                   9.       The absorbent article of claim 8 wherein said pattern is selected  
2 from the group consisting of a spiral pattern, a melt blown pattern, a multi-tracked  
3 pattern, a full coat pattern, a zoned spray pattern, and an intermittent pattern.



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2                   a barrier layer;  
3                   a cover layer extending substantially parallel to said barrier layer;  
4                   an absorbent layer interposed between said cover layer and said barrier  
5 layer; and  
6                   a superabsorbent polymer applied in liquid form to said absorbent layer,  
7 said superabsorbent polymer being applied in a pattern configured to distribute fluid in  
8 said absorbent article, wherein portions of said absorbent layer are at least partially  
9 coated with said superabsorbent polymer and other portions of said absorbent layer are  
10 substantially free of said superabsorbent polymer.

1                   16.     An absorbent underpad comprising:  
2                   a barrier layer;  
3                   a cover layer extending substantially parallel to said barrier layer;  
4                   a tissue layer interposed between said cover layer and said barrier layer;  
5 and  
6                   a superabsorbent polymer applied in liquid form to said absorbent layer,  
7 said superabsorbent polymer being applied in a pattern configured to distribute fluid in  
8 said absorbent article, wherein portions of said absorbent layer are at least partially  
9 coated with said superabsorbent polymer and other portions of said absorbent layer are  
10 substantially free of said superabsorbent polymer.